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Tammy Russ

From: Jon Coppa [vcb@groundcontrol.us]
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Cc: Mayes-WebEmail; Mundell-Web; Gleason-WebEmail; Hatch-WebEmail; Pierce-Web
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Attachments: Unisource Meeting No#1C90D1.doc; ATT1269745.txt



Unisource Meeting ATT1269745.txt
No#1C90D1.do... (290 B)

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E-04204A-06-0783

RE: Minutes of the first meeting of the San Rafael Valley Assn. with Unisource representatives from the Nogales office.

(Refence Fact: the San Rafael Valley/Washington Camp area has had a total of 189 hours of power outage since June 16, 2005)

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**San Rafael Valley Association
Meeting with Unisource Representatives
Monday, September 17, 2007
7:30 am at Hilton Residence**

Attendees: Tom Hoyt, Unisource Nogales Manager
Ricky Robles, Unisource Construction Supervisor
Gail Bernstein, SRVA Vice President
Carol Hilton, SRVA Treasurer
Michael Hilton, SRVA Member

Gail suggested that the Unisource representatives provide us with an overview of the existing system.

The following description of the system is based on the information offered by the Unisource representatives and responses to questions from SRVA representatives.

- ❖ All the power that comes to Santa Cruz County originates in Tucson from a government owned line (WAPA – Western Area Power).
- ❖ The WAPA line is 115kv.
- ❖ The power for the San Rafael Valley is circuit 6 that starts at the Nogales sub-station located across the street from WalMart.
- ❖ It is referred to as an 8000 volt line, but actually carries 7620 volts.
- ❖ The three phase line runs all the way to the border.
- ❖ The line to Washington Camp is a spur off the line that runs into Mexico.
- ❖ There are 179 customers on the United States side of the line.
- ❖ Unisource does not know the number of customers in Mexico because they sell the power directly to the Mexican Power Company, not to individual customers.
- ❖ Unisource describes the Mexican customers as residential/farming not commercial/industrial.
- ❖ Unisource meets quarterly with the Mexican Power Company.
- ❖ Unisource has a meter at the border. They take a reading every 15 minutes and bill the Mexican Power Company based on the meter reading.
- ❖ Unisource acknowledged that some of the voltage problems could be due to Mexican usage.

- ❖ Prior to 1999 the power came from the Rio Rico sub-station.
- ❖ Although the line from the Nogales sub-station is somewhat longer, Unisource made the change because the Rio Rico lines are a more problematic triangular design. The original Rio Rico lines were installed in the 60's by the developers and Unisource is now replacing those lines with the traditional parallel lines.
- ❖ The parallel lines have more spacing between the lines and allow for lightning arrestors and higher voltage.
- ❖ When the Rio Rico upgrade is complete it is likely we will be transferred back to the Rio Rico substation.
- ❖ The Rio Rico substation and Nogales substation lines join at Santa Cruz River near the Red School House on Duquesne Road.
- ❖ It is not possible to connect the Unisource and Sulphur Spring Coop lines because the Sulphur Spring line is low voltage, not a transmission line. ???????
- ❖ The Sulphur Springs line (starts/ends) at Mustang Corners. Unisource's closest line is the West Gate of Fort Huachuca. Unisource provides the power for the military base.
- ❖ The Unisource line runs to the south of the Patagonia Cemetery.
- ❖ The national standard for acceptable outages is 5 minutes annually.
- ❖ Unisource sets goals based on the SAIFI (Sustainable, Average, Interruption, and Frequency Index). The goal is 1.23 outages per annually.
- ❖ Unisource has no separate standard from rural versus urban customers. Some Engineering Organizations (IEEE) publish acceptable levels.

Discussion regarding power outages:

- ❖ There are fault breakers at the substation. The system will try to reset the power 3 times before it will leave the breaker open resulting in an outage.
- ❖ There are also 4 Line Reclosures in place. Line reclosures function the same way as the fault breakers at the substation. Line Reclosures are used as they reduce the number of people affected by a power outage.

- ❖ Delays in restoring power are caused by terrain (in some cases, such as, the recent Labor Day weekend outage, they have to build roads to get to the power pole); when Citizens' Utility replaced poles they used steel poles in lieu of wood. Line man can not climb steel poles so the roads must be large enough to accommodate a bucket truck. Sometimes have to borrow horses to review and monitor lines. SRVA offered to work with members to provide Unisource with horses if necessary.
- ❖ In response to our concern about lack of consistent information when calling the 800 number regarding an outage, Mr. Hoyt recommended that the Association identify one member as an Association contact person. That SRVA representative would not only report their outage, but all request that a specific person call them. That Unisource representative will return the SRVA representative's call and keep the SRVA representative updated. An SRVA Phone Tree will be essential for this to work. We agreed to not share the name/title of that individual with everyone as it would swamp their system and affect their ability to correct the problem.

Discussion regarding voltage drops and surges

- ❖ Unisource reps stated that they were not aware that customers in this area were having problems with voltage fluctuations.
- ❖ Unisource's goal is to provide 120 volt with a 5% variance, i.e., 114-126 volts.
- ❖ Unisource needs to have specific info on dates, time, voltage, etc. in order to determine the problem. Everyone should report "repetitive bleeps" with the power, not just a few residents. It helps Unisource to pin point the problem area, and most importantly Unisource prioritizes work on outages based on number of customers affected.
- ❖ Unisource asked that we advise all members to report all outages/power variances. A power variance would be defined as "repetitive bleeps" (more than 3 on/off's in quick succession). Less than three should indicate that the problem has been corrected by the fault breaker or line reclosure system.

- ❖ The Unisource reps acknowledge that power draws from Mexico could cause the problems, but they will review the meter readings for fluctuations. They are to provide the meter readings to the SRVA.
- ❖ Unisource also agreed to install in-line monitors to record voltage levels over a one month period. These could be installed by September 21. Ricky will call Michael Hilton when he has specific plans for the installation.

According to Mr. Hoyt, Unisource, not Sulphur Springs provides power to the northern area of the Valley. If a mine wanted power in that area, the mine would have to pay for all infrastructure, i.e., improvements, transmission lines and substations associated with getting power to their site.

Unisource contracts with Asplundh to trim trees. It is a year round contract covering the entire Unisource service area.